Sectt. II–27—100,006—21–5–52.

EP II (1949) Department.

MS SERIES.

G.O. No. 2611 PH

Dated 21-7-49

[Despatch Abstract.]

L.A. Qns. Vital Statistics- Production of birth certificates in schools_ papers recorded.

Preparation of vital statistics.

*47 Q Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin:-Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be please to state:

(a) the method adopted in this Province as regards the preparation of vital statistics;

(b) whether it is a fact that mortality and morbidity satistics are not recorded correctly; and

(c) the steps the Government intend to take to rectify the exciting defects?

The Hon. Sai K. Madhava Menon:- "(a) Registration of births and deaths is compulsory in villages where the Madras Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1899 (Act III of 1899) is in force : In villages where the Act is not in force, the registration of births and deaths is done under executive instructions of the Revenue department. In 1941, the Act has been extended to almost all the villages in the Province except certain excluded areas and backward tracts. Both in compuslory and non-compulsory areas, the agency for registration of vital events is the village headman. He registers births and deaths that occur in the villages in such birth and death registers prescribed under the Act, as and when they are reported by parties concerned or when he himself comes to know of such cases. At then end of each month, he prepares an abstract for the month from the birth and death registers in a special form prescribed under the Act, and registers in a special form prescribed under the Act, and sends it to the Tahsildar concerned who, in turn, forwards it to the office of the Director of Public Health. These monthly returns are posted in a separate posting register and the figures for each taluk, district and Province are compiled. The statistics for rural towns are also separately compiled.

"In municipal areas, the registration of births and deaths is compulsory and specially trained birth and death registrars (Sanitary Inspectors) are appointed for the purpose of registering vital events that occur within the muncilcpal area in the prescribed birth and death registers. An abstract therefrom for each each week and each month is prepared and forwarded to the office of the Director of Public Health, Madras. The monthly and weekly figures given in the returns in the are compiled separately for municipal areas.

"In municipal areas with Health Officers, the classification of causes of deaths is done under the supervision of Health Officers and as such, detailed returns showing detailed causes of deaths correlated with ages are also obtained for special study.

"The monthly vital statistics recorded in municipal and non-municipal areas in the Province are published in the Fort St. George Gazette.

(b) No morbidity statistics are maintained except in regard to cases of cholera, smallpox, plague and fevers. Recently, malaria has also been included as a separate item under 'fevers' As regards the mortality statistics, ommission, to register deaths and wrong classification of the causes of death do occur sometimes in villages due to ignorance of the people. Every endeavour is however being made to improve the registration by frequent check by the public health staff and the Inspecting Officers of the Revenue department.

(c) The following measures have been taken to improve the collection of vital statistics:-

(i) Extension of the Madras and Births and Deaths Registration Act to almost all villages to make registration of births

(i) Extension of the Madras Births and Deaths Registration Act to almost all villges to make registration of births and deaths compulsory in them.

(ii) The following deseases are made notifiable under the Madras Public Health Act of 1939:-

Cerebro-spinal fever.	Pleague.
Chickenpox	Rabies.
Cholera	Relapsing fever.
Diphtheria	Scarlet fever.
Enteric fever	Small pox
Leprosy	Tuberculosis
Measles	Typhus fever.

It is obligatory on the part of the Medical Practitioner to report cases of these diseases that come to his notice, to the village headman or the health staff. It is also obligatory on the part of the head of the family, etc., to report such cases except typhoid fever and tuberculosis.

(iii) Frequent check of the work of the registrars by Inspecting Officers."

Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin:- "Is the Hon. Minister aware that the village headman is too much over-burdened with other work and hence he is not able to satisfactorily discharge his duties in regard to the collection of vital statistics?"

The Hon. Sri K. Mahadhava Menon:- "I do not think the number of births and deaths in the village are so numerous as to make the work of the headman more heavy by this work".

Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin: " Is the Hon. Minister aware that the Bhore Committee have stated in their report that the village head man is not able to discharge his duties satisfactorily; in view of this, may I suggest that instead of the village headman along undertaking this work, a committee may be set up for this purpose, of which the village headman may be the chairman?"

The Hon. Sri K. Madhava Menon: " I do not think how the committee will reduce his work in any way in this matter."

Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin: "Will the Government consider the ways and means of improving the collection of vital statistics?"

The Hon. Sri K. Madhava Menon: "I have already given categorically all the improvements that the Government have already made and the suggestion of the hon. Member will be certainly considered."

Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin: "Will the Government consider the desirability of asking the members of the Public Health staff to check up the registers by house to house enquiry when they go to these villages on their routine duties and also will the Government see that courts and Schools insist upon the production of births and deaths certificates?"

The Hon. Sri K. Madhava Menon: "The suggestion of the hon. Member will be considered.

(* Questions 48- and 49 answered on 16th September 1947.)

True Copy

Education Department.

From
Director of Public Instruction,
Madras.

To the Secretary to Government,
Education & Public Health Department.,
Madras.

Roc: No.2740 E.4048 dated 5-5-1949.

Sir,

Sub: Vital Statistics- Production of birth Certificates in Schools.
Ref: Govt. Memo. No.30350 F2/48-4 P.H. dated 11-9-48.

-.-.

With reference to Government Memo cited, I may state as follows:-

" Birth Extracts" can be valid as relevant evidence only when the name of the child is given. In many cases, in the case of Hindus almost invariably, this is not done, and on this ground, the evidence of birth extracts is rejected as unsatisfactory, whenever an alteration has been requested for on that basis. If this feature of Hindu birth extracts is not eliminated, it won't do to insist on birth extracts generally.

Notification of a child's birth has not yet become a common practice. At present, exceptions are nemerous enough. Until exceptions are reudced to a sufficiently small number, any insistence on birth extract would rather tend to shut out in effect quite a large number of pupils from schools for inability to produce the required evidence of birth. The problem will only be complicated if compulsory education is also to be introduced. The position would effect very adversely all the backward communities who have yet to realise the importance of notifying the births of children to the authorities.

It will not therefore be proper to ~~insist~~ insist on birth extracts as the main basis of evidence until Government are satisfied that the notification of births is accepted as a duty by everybody and, particularly, by the members of the more backward communities.

Under the circumstances, in my opinion, the suggestion contained in Government Memo cited is not likely to achieve the desired result, apart from the confusion that may result.

Yours faithfully,

Sd.
Director of Public Instruction.

True Copy

NOTE FILE: 4

In connection with the improvement of birth and death statistics, the late H.M. agreed in the Legislature that it would be examined that courts and schools should be made to insist on the production of birth and death certificates in evidence of age. There is no provision so far in the educational rules for consideration of such certificates. Such a provision if made, may induce parents to be more particular abour registration of birth.

At the same time, it is not easy to produce such certificates as the registers do not remain with the Village Officers after the period of ayear. Legal Department also consider that the evidence of such certificates is not conclusive. In these circumstances, perhaps the time is not ripe for making any change and we may leave the status quo stand.

The papers may now be recorded.

G.O. Ms. No.2611- P.H.
Dated 21-7-1949.
Abstract.
LeA. Qn. Vital Statistics-
Production of birth
certificates in schools-
papers recorded.

True Copy

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

MG

288